(b) whether some persons belonging to other castes are working on the said posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to fill up the backlog ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The requiste information in being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Vigilance/Corruption Cases

2062. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of corrution, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of Ministry in 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the number of officers (Grade-wise) found involved them therein;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty in 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance initiate action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt ;

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the functioning of powers of the vigilance section under their control ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f) There is no Vigilance Department of the Ministry. However, both the departments *viz.* Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and Department of Fertilizers in the Ministry have separate vigilance units in accordance with the extant guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission. Eight complaints of corruption against ten officials of the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals were received in the vigilance unit of that Department and were examined during 1995-96 and 1996-97. No case of corruption or dishonesty in respect of officers of the Department of Fertilizers was investigated by the vigilance unit of that Department in 1995-96 and 1996-97. The Annual Property returns of all Group A and B officers were, however, scrutinised as per the prescribed procedure and no case of disproportionate assets came to light.

Discontinuation of Wheat in Open Market

2063. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALLA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the FCI has discontinued the open sale of wheat in the market ;

(b) if so, the date from which it has been discontinue and the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether this decision of the FCI adversely affects on some States particularly in Kerala ;

(d) whether representations have been received to revive the open sale of wheat by FCI ;

(e) if so, the details thereof :

(f) whether the Government propose to issue directions to the FCI to revive the open sale of wheat in the market ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir, the Open Market Sale Scheme has been discontinued.

(b) The Open Market Sale Scheme has been discontinued with effect trom 1st April, 1997 till further orders due to tight position of wheat stock in the Central Pool.

(c) No reports have been received regarding adverse affect due to discontinuation of open sale of wheat as Rabi season started in April, 1997 and there was ample availability of wheat in wheat producing states from where it was moved to other states on trade account also.

(d) and (e) Government of India have received representations from Kerala Roller Flour Millers Association, Karnataka Roller Flour Mill Association and Confederation of Flour Mills of Southern States for resumption of open sale of wheat to continue with the Open Market Sale Scheme.

(f) and (g) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration with the Government to sell wheat in the open market.

Upgradation of Research Organisations

2064. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken special steps to encourage/strengthen/upgrade research Organisations/

Institutions in the country in Pharma Sector to catch up the Development taking place in the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the main major R&D projects taken up/entrusted to National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research and other R&D organisations and investment in R&D in Pharma Sector during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A scheme for financial support to Joint Collaborative Research Projects between National Research Laboratories, under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and industry is being implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to strengthen/upgrade R&D in pharma sector. Also, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research has been set up under the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals to impart education and undertake Research to catch up with changes taking place in developed countries.

(c) The major R&D projects taken-up and those under negotiations by the national Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) are given in the attached Statement- I. Delails of Joint Collaborative Research Projects between National Research Laboratories and Industry are given in the attached Statement -II.

Statement- I

I. Projects in Hand

1. Agrotechnology of Artemesia annua
2. Isolation of artemisine from Artemesia annua
3. MDR in L. Donovani
4. Controlled release of Diltiazem
5. Acute toxicity studies of some herbal products
6. Immunomodulatory activity of PRO-Immu
7. Stability studies of various Antibiotics & some intermediates
8. Chiral synthesis of some drugs using Chemo-enzymatic methods
9. Trans-dermal drug delivery systems
10. Bio-availability studies of some anti-tubercular drugs
11. Ionophoretic drug delivery of some peptides
12. Immunomodulatory activity of some plants
13. Process development of some bulk drugs and their intermediates

II. Projects Under Negotiations

1. Enzymatic Activity of Honey
2. Synthesis and pilot scale preparations of
   (a) Famcy clovir ;
   (b) Flubi-profen
   (c) Itraconazole
   (d) Albuterol
3. Bio-availability studies of
   (a) Ampicillin (b) Albuterol.

Statement- II

Sl. No.	Project	National Laboratories	Industrial Partner	Total Project Cost (Rs. lakhs)
1.	2.	3.	4.	5
1.	Development of methods for purification and characterization of PGH Synthase-Cycloxygenase (cox) I & II	Department of Animal Science University of Hyderabad	Dr. Reddy's Research Foundation Hyderabad	28.48
2.	Design and synthesis of novel agents for the treatement of AIDS	Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad.	Lupin Laboratories Bombay	60.00
3.	Identification of Immunomodulating Potential of products and Extracts of natural origin	IICB, Calcutta	Yet to be finalised	58.03
4.	New drug studies for development of peptides based anti-cancer agent	Centre for Biochemical Technology (CBT)	Dabur	954.55
5.	Synthesis and biological evaluation of Camptothecin and podephyllotoxin	IICT	Ranbaxy	118.10
6.	Synthesis and screening of new analogues of quinolone Carboxylic acid against multi-drug resistant bacterial, mycobacterial and fungal pathogens	CDRI	Ranbaxy	310.75

1.	2.	3.	4.	5
7.	Development of traditional herbal drugs as adaptogens/immunomodulators	Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jammu	Zandu Pharmaceutical works	240.32
8.	New antibacterial beta lactam anti-biotics	Indian Institute of Chemical Tech. Hyderabad.	SOL	90.50
9.	Setting up of two national facilities one at IISc., Bangalore and other one at CDRI, Lucknow for Characterisation of crystals of biological macromolecules of medicinal and Industrial importance. *other* Strengthening of pharmacological testing facilities at CDRI, Lucknow.	(i) IICT, Bangalore (ii) CDRI, Lucknow	-	54.84 160.50
10.	Sugar and hetrocycle modified nucleosides	National Chemicals Laboratory	Recon	38.63
11.	Novel Hypocholesterolemic Agents Synthesis and biological evaluation of squalene epoxidase inhibitors	Regional Research Laboratory, Trivandrum	Ranbaxy	151.30
12.	P-Aminophenol via Single Step Catalytic hydrogenation of Nitrobenzene.	National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune	NATCO Pharma	28.75
13.	Synthesis and screening of new antimycotic agents	IICT	Ranbaxy Research Laboratory	120.00
14.	Process Validation and biological evaluation of 'Asavas, and 'Arishtas' with special reference to inoculum bearing herbs	Delhi University	Dabur Research Foundations	45.90
15.	Discovery of novel peptidomimetics as Endothelin Receptor Antagonists : de novo synthesis using B. dehydro and B-amino acids and crystallo graphic studies utilising clones receptors.	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur & All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)	Ranbaxy Research Laboratory	196.80

[Translation]

Setting up of New Centres by ICAR in Bihar

2065. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has decided to set up new agricultural sciences research centres in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) the criteria adopted for setting up new centres in the country by the Council ;

(d) whether this criteria is being followed while setting up these centres by the Council;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the special thrust needed for agricultural development in Eastern India, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has a proposal for establishment of new Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the region during 1997-98 with the availability of additional financial resources from the Planning Commission.

(c) to (e) For setting up new Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR constitute an Expert Team under the Chairmanship of an Eminent Scientist, Director of Extension Education of State Agricultural University, a Representative of State Department of Agriculture, Zonal Coordinator of the Zone as Members and a Senior Officer from the Council's Head Quarters as Member-Secretary. Based on the recommendation of the team, the suitability of site for location of a KVK is decided on the basis of the criteria fixed by the Government which included availability of adequate representative cultivable